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(19) (CA) **APPLICATION FOR CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Laundry Bag

(72) Lucier, Vera - Canada ;

(71) Same as inventor

(57) 7 Claims

Notice: This application is as filed and may therefore contain an incomplete specification.

**Canada**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

By the present invention, a laundry bag is provided. The laundry bag includes an outer bag of aesthetically pleasing appearance. An inner waterproof bag is sewn only to the inner periphery of the outer bag. A recloseable fastener is provided for closing the open end of the united and combined inner and outer bags. Finally, a hanging strap is secured to the outer bag at a location offset from the recloseable fastener.

This invention relates to laundry bags.

Laundry bags now in common use are generally provided with a draw sting for closing the neck. In the home, they are generally suspended from a hook by means of this draw string. Being kept closed in this manner, it is not always  
5 convenient to deposit soiled or dirty clothing therein.

Moreover, if wet or soiled laundry is placed in the laundry bag, moisture will leak or seep out through a non-waterproof or impervious material. On the other hand, if  
10 the laundry bag is made of water-impervious material, the aesthetic appearance of the laundry bag is greatly diminished.

One laundry bag which was alleged to be an improvement over the prior laundry bags was taught in Canadian Patent  
15 No. 250,149 patented June 2, 1925 by E. Boyes. That patent provided a bag having a closed extension or cap piece at its upper end. A horizontal slot was provided in one side of the bag adjacent to this cap piece. A rigid hanger, similar to a coat hanger, when it was inserted through this  
20 slot, served as a means of supporting the bag and maintaining it spread out so that the slot could be open for the reception of clothing. A draw string was arranged in the bag below such slot. When the hanger was removed from within the bag, the neck of the bag could be closed by  
25 means of the draw string. However, this patented laundry bag is deficient in not addressing the problem of leakage or seepage of moisture from within the bag.

A proposed solution to that problem was said to be provided by the laundry bag of Canadian Patent No. 511,974 patented April 19, 1955 by C. Pocock. That patent provided a laundry bag made up of a pair of large parallel panels secured together at their upper ends. These panels were intended to be carried by an ordinary coat hanger so that the slot could be formed at the upper ends of the panels, through which the hook of a hanger could extend. As the panels were secured together only adjacent to their upper ends, it was said to be a very simple matter to insert and remove the hanger. At least one large pocket was formed on a surface of each panel. Additional pockets could be formed on the outer surfaces of the pockets and/or on the inner surfaces of the panel. If a pocket was formed on the outer surface of each panel, the upper ends of the material forming the pockets could be in line with each other and could be formed with an open hem through which a draw string extends. This string may be drawn to close both pockets at the same time. Nevertheless this patent does not completely solve the problems referred to above. It would seem that a lined laundry bag may possibly solve such problems.

In a non-analogous art, a lined container was taught in Canadian Patent No. 1,131,595 patented September 14, 1987. That patent was not directed to a laundry bag but was in fact directed to a lightweight, flexible, insulated lunch bag, the overall size of which could be reduced to about one third when empty. The lunch bag included a top,

a front wall, a rear wall, a bottom wall and a pair of side walls. Each wall included an outer wall and an inner wall with a layer of an insulating material being disposed therebetween. The inner walls included a liner which was  
5 disposed in the interior of the bag. The bag further included a means for opening and closing thereof which was positioned adjacent the top of the bag. A carrying means was affixed to the upper portion of the bag. After the food contents were removed, the bag could be folded on  
10 itself or rolled up in such a manner that its overall length could be reduced to one third. The patentee taught that the liner, i.e. the inner wall, could be secured either adhesively or by stitching or by any other suitable method to all the inner side walls and the bottom walls of  
15 the lunch bag, thereby forming a unitary composite inner wall of bag.

Thus, the problems in laundry bags outlined above still remains. It is therefore an object of a main aspect of this invention to improve the construction of a laundry  
20 bag by avoiding the use of the draw string, but the laundry bag nevertheless being constructed in such a way that the bag, when hung in place, could be held open for the reception of clothing.

An object of another aspect of this invention is the  
25 provision of such a bag which has an aesthetically pleasing appearance and has the utilitarian function of keeping wet and soiled laundry in an enclosed environment.

The present invention provides a laundry bag comprising an outer bag of aesthetically pleasing appearance; an inner waterproof bag sewn only to the inner periphery of the outer bag; an upper recloseable fastener for closing the open end of the united and combined inner and outer bags; and a hanging strap secured to the outer bag at a location offset from the reclosable fastener.

It is preferred that the outer bag be formed of a silk-like or aesthetically-pleasing cloth material. The inner bag may be formed of a rubberized fabric or a tightly woven waterproof synthetic plastic material.

The inner bag is secured to the outer bag only at the top thereof, adjacent to the recloseable fastener. The hanging strap is preferably secured to the bag by the sewing or stitching which secures the inner bag to the outer bag.

The reclosable fastener may be the sliding recloseable fastener known by the trade-mark ZIPPER<sup>TM</sup> or may be the hook-and-loop type recloseable fastener known by the trade-mark VELCRO<sup>TM</sup>.

In the accompanying drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, partially broken away, of a laundry bag according to one embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective section through the line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

As seen in the drawings, the laundry bag 10 of this embodiment of the invention includes an inner bag 11, made

of a water-proof material, e.g., rubberized fabric, and an outer bag 12, made of aesthetically-pleasing material, e.g., silk. The inner bag 11 is secured to the outer bag 12 only at the top thereof 13, by means of stitching 14.

5 As shown in Fig. 2, the inner bag 11 is folded over, at 15, to form a reinforcing lapel 16. The outer bag 12 is likewise folded over at 17 to form a reinforcing lapel 18. The reclosable fastener 19, which preferably is a ZIPPER<sup>TM</sup> is placed with its tape 20 abutting the reinforcing lapel 18. 10 The knotted ends 21 of the hanging strap 22 is disposed between the tape 20 and the lapel 18. Finally at least one layer of stitching 14 secures the sub-assembly so formed together.

Thus it will be seen that the present invention 15 provides a laundry bag which is of pleasing appearance, but yet includes a waterproof feature which prevents leakage therefrom. The hanging strap is so arranged that, even when hanging, the laundry bag may be opened and closed for the introduction of soiled clothing thereinto.

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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A laundry bag comprising an outer bag of aesthetically pleasing appearance; an inner waterproof bag sewn only to said inner periphery of said outer bag; an upper recloseable fastener for closing said open end of said united and combined inner and outer bags; and a hanging strap secured to said outer bag at a location offset from said reclosable fastener.
2. The laundry bag of claim 1 wherein said outer bag is formed of a silk-like or aesthetically-pleasing cloth material.
3. The laundry bag of claims 1 or 2 wherein said inner bag is formed of a rubberized fabric or a tightly woven waterproof synthetic plastic material.
4. The laundry bag of claim 1 wherein said inner bag is secured to said outer bag only at the top thereof, adjacent to said recloseable fastener
5. The laundry bag of claim 1 wherein said hanging strap is secured to said bag by the sewing or stitching which secures said inner bag to said outer bag.

6. The laundry bag of claim 1 wherein said recloseable fastener is the sliding recloseable fastener.

7. The laundry bag of claim 1 wherein said recloseable fastener is a hook-and-loop type recloseable fastener.

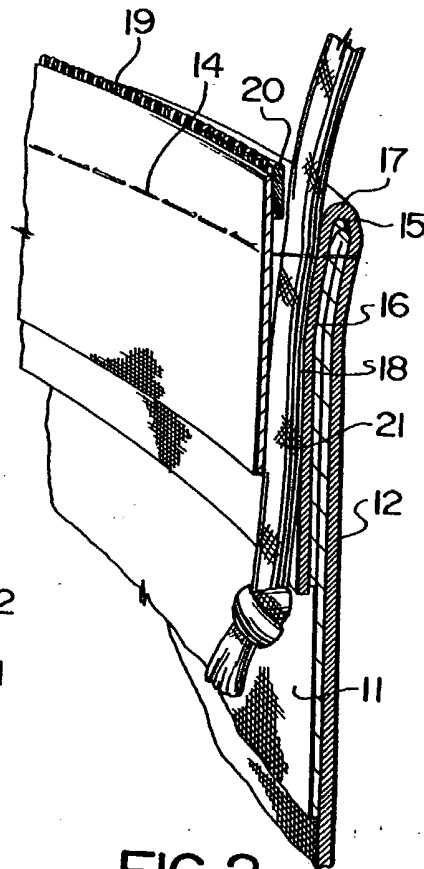
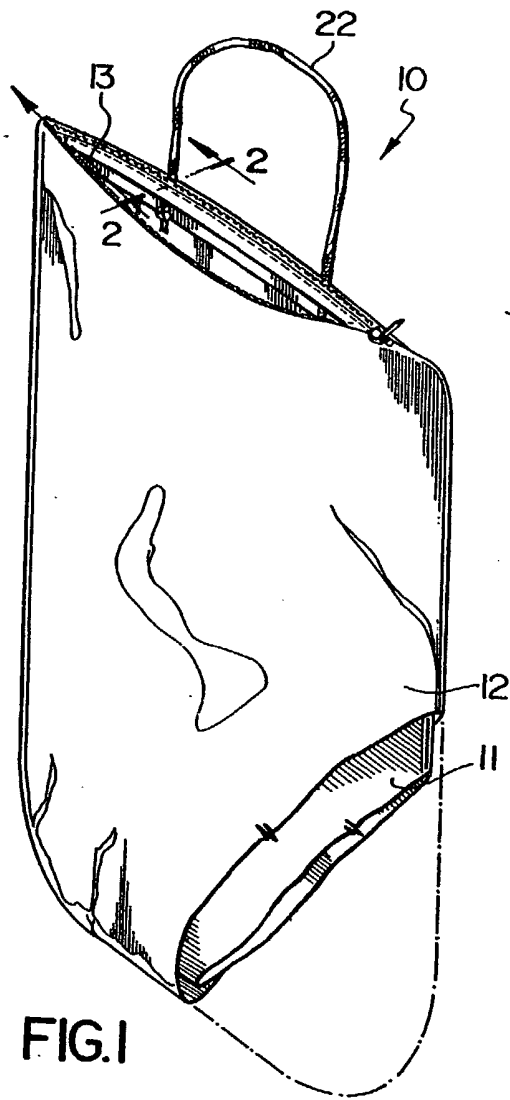


FIG. 2